

Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting
August 16, 2012
Minutes

Council Member Updates

Tom Goniea, Fisheries Division, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provided an update on Asian Carps. Two grass carp were captured from Marrs Lake; both were greater than 10 years old and diploid (capable of reproduction). Survey efforts recently completed in western Lake Erie yielded no Asian Carp.

Phyllis Green, National Park Service, reported on the Ballast Water Collaborative meeting and noted that FedNav is conducting tests on ballast water treatment using chlorine.

Dan Vogler, Michigan Aquaculture Association, mentioned that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) training for aquaculture, recently held in Dundee, Michigan, was well attended and successful.

Dave Hamilton, The Nature Conservancy, distributed a handout of a section-by-section summary of House Resolution 5864, the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act (handout is posted on the AIS Web page at www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives).

Phragmites

Anne Hokanson, Water Resources Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), gave a presentation on Phragmites Management and Control and distributed a draft phragmites treatment/management prioritization tool (presentation and handout is posted on the AIS Web page at www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives). Some comments on the tool include: feasibility criteria should be considered, positive behavior modification/education of the public is needed, land value question should be removed – other factors on the tool (i.e., aesthetic, access, etc.) will address this; clarification is needed on who is going to use the tool and do the scoring; how confident are we with the Cornell University research (Geoff Steinhart will contact Cornell University and discuss their timeframe); where is the funding to pay for the projects; funding and grants are available by federal, state, and private agencies; having/using the proposed tool would definitely strengthen a grant application when applying for funding; the tool is targeted for waterfront homeowners only; and the tool should include a note at the bottom that if a person can determine the land value loss, they should include the information or contact the DEQ. Bill Creal would like the Council to focus on three steps: (1) concept – long-term biological control and short-term control measures; (2) prioritization - determine methods, and (3) develop a communication strategy. A motion was passed for the DEQ to incorporate the suggested changes and present an outline of a framework for the next meeting.

Funding

Roger Eberhardt, Office of the Great Lakes, DEQ, gave a presentation on additional funding for AIS, specifically long-term sustainable funding for the State Management

Plan and Organisms in Trade. Roger checked into the types of funding the other Great Lakes states are using. Those states use three different funding sources: (1) overall state support for base programs that cover staff, recurring activities, publications, etc.; (2) individual incoming grants for special projects, one-time actions, etc.; and (3) user groups fees for outgoing grants for a recurring grant program. Michigan is currently using federal funds (short-term grant funds under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative) and would be considered special project funding as compared to the other Great Lakes states. Michigan has no long-term support for AIS activities. In 2003, boaters were polled and asked if they would be willing to pay more for their boater registration fee to go towards an AIS control and prevention program; the answer was yes, but it did not get enough interest to make it to the polls. Comments on funding options include: the state has almost nothing invested in the control of AIS; if the DEQ/DNR/Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) had to provide permanent funding to run the AIS Program, how much of a priority would it be and what would be done to fund it; don't underestimate what the public wants; if AIS is a priority, then it should be paid for with new funds (i.e., taxes); Minnesota received permanent funding due to an emergency with the amount of zebra and quagga mussels they were getting in Lake Minnetonka; do we have a framework to handle new funds; in order to implement mechanisms, who has the authority to increase or change – Legislature or DEQ; and we need a target. It was agreed that the DEQ will provide dollar amount and number of FTEs that were provided to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; explain the AIS core team; and look at the desired outcomes and types of grants for long-term funding.

Organisms in Trade

Steve Huff, Commercial Fish Enforcement Unit, Law Enforcement Division, DNR, gave a presentation on AIS Inspection and Outreach Efforts. The Commercial Fish Enforcement Unit is responsible for training various personnel (United States Coast Guard, United States Customs, etc.) on identifying AIS, fish inspections and identifications, and outreach efforts (i.e., daily contact with the public, sports shows, hunter safety classes, conservation officers being active in their communities and contacted often, etc.). Steve also discussed the case of Farley's Fish Farm in Arkansas being charged by the Attorney General's office in Michigan for selling grass carp. Steve Halstead, DARD, will give a presentation at the next Council meeting on the legislation DARD has submitted to the Legislature regarding regulating retailers.

Greg Hitzroth, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, gave a presentation on current education and outreach efforts (presentation is posted on the AIS Web page at www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives). Some of the outreach efforts they are working on include developing a "don't release" brand, presentations and events, giveaways, articles, inserts for products/supplies, cell phone application, AIS-free water garden, organisms in trade Web site (early fall), needs assessment (early winter), training workshop for invasive species managers on risk assessment tools, brochures, posters, and handouts.

Tom Goniea gave a presentation on Harmonizing Federal and State Law: details on aquatic species included on federal lists (Lacey Act and Noxious Weed Act) but not on Michigan's list pursuant to Part 413, Transgenic and Nonnative Organisms, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended

(NREPA) (presentation and handout is posted on the AIS Web page at www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives). Tom provided everyone with a list of plant species and a list of fish, reptiles, amphibian, mollusks, and crustaceans. There are 7 animal species/families on the federal list that are not on Michigan's list: 3 Chinese mitten crabs, walking catfish, brown tree snake, Burmese python, Northern African python, Southern African python, and yellow anaconda. There are 13 plants species on the federal list that are not on Michigan's list. These species are unlikely to establish permanent populations in Michigan with the exception of the python species that was added to the federal list in 2012 due to the part it plays in the United States pet trade. The Council recommends that the Agriculture Commission and Natural Resources Commission add the species on the federal list to the state list now and revise the NREPA to indicate that a review process be conducted whenever a species is added to the federal list before it is added to the state list. Steve Halstead will contact the National Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council to include them in the discussion on the species list updates and will provide an update at the next Council meeting.

Bob Schutzki, Michigan State University, gave a presentation on the Michigan Invasive Plant Council's Michigan Plant Invasiveness Assessment System (presentation and handout is posted on the AIS Web page at www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives). The purpose of this tool is to determine invasiveness after the species is already present in the ecosystem.

Council Business

Bill Creal indicated that the extension letter to the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, and Speaker of the House is held up but hoping it will go out next week. Bill will follow-up.

Future Meetings

September 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Constitution Hall, Lansing
A doodle survey will be sent for a meeting date in October to be held in Roscommon.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.